

# NATURAL HISTORY MISCELLANEA

Published by  
The Chicago Academy of Sciences  
Lincoln Park - 2001 N. Clark St., Chicago 14, Illinois

---

No. 102

April 18, 1952

---

## A New Subspecies of *Ophisaurus attenuatus*, with a Key to the North American Forms

Edwin H. McConkey\*

In order to make possible the inclusion of my reclassification of the North American glass lizards of the genus *Ophisaurus* in a new check list of North American amphibians and reptiles, Karl P. Schmidt has asked me to publish the following extracts from my more extended revisionary treatment of these lizards in press in *The American Midland Naturalist*.

### *Ophisaurus attenuatus longicaudus*, new subspecies

*Ophisaurus attenuatus* Neill, 1949, *Herpetologica*, 5 (3), p. 100.

*Type*. American Museum of Natural History 71305, a male, collected June 15, 1948, by John W. Crenshaw, near the Emory University Field Station, twelve miles southwest of Newton, Baker County, Georgia. The type was formerly L32 in Mr. Crenshaw's private collection.

*Diagnosis*. An *Ophisaurus* differing from other members of the genus in North America by the following characters taken in combination: the white marks on the scales occupy the middle of the scales, and the unregenerated tail of the adult is 2.4 or more times the snout-vent length.

*Geographic Range*. Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee and Kentucky.

### Key to the North American *Ophisaurus*

- 1 One or two upper labials of each side in contact with the orbit;  
frontonasal usually double; scales along lateral fold numbering 97  
or less (coastal South Carolina through peninsular Florida) *O. compressus*.  
1/ Upper labials separated from orbit by lorilabials; frontonasal single;  
scales along lateral fold numbering 98 or more 2

\*Department of Biology, University of Florida.

2 White markings (absent only in the very young) occurring on posterior corners of scales, never primarily in middle of scales; no distinct middorsal stripe present; no dark stripes present on venter (southeastern United States, from North Carolina to Florida, westward to Louisiana and eastern Oklahoma, and northward to southern Illinois)

*O. ventralis.*

2*i* White markings occurring in middle of scales, often forming smooth stripes; a distinct middorsal stripe generally present in adults, always in young; dark stripes usually present on scale rows one and two of venter      3  
Length of complete and unregenerated tail of adult less than 2.4 times snout-vent length (northwestern Indiana to southern Wisconsin, southwestward to Louisiana and Texas)      *O. attenuatus attenuatus.*

3/ Length of complete and unregenerated tail of adult 2.4 or more times snout-vent length (southeastern United States, from Virginia and Kentucky southward to central Florida and Mississippi)

*O. attenuatus longicaudus.*